

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Action/Consent Item:**

District facility plan amendments: Whitley County and East Bernstadt Independent School Districts (Whitley County Hearing Report under separate cover)

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

702 KAR 1:001

#### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the proposed amendments to the current District Facility Plans for the above listed Kentucky school districts?

#### **History/Background:**

##### ***Existing Policy.***

KRS 157.420 - requires that the capital outlay and Facilities Support Program of Kentucky (Building Fund) allotment from the public school funds be used by school districts for capital construction projects defined by the district's long range facility plan (702 KAR 1:001).

KRS 157.620 - requires each school district to establish unmet facility needs (equal the sum of all capital construction priorities from the district facility plan less local available revenue) to participate in the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) Offer of Assistance.

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) shall approve all District Facility Plans submitted by the local school district upon recommendation of the Commissioner of Education. The East Bernstadt hearing report is attached and the Whitley County hearing report is being sent under separate cover because the hearing will not occur until January 24, after the Agenda Book is mailed.

We have also reviewed the non-resident agreements and the number of "out of district" students in each school district affected. (This information is enclosed herein.)

#### **Staff Recommendation & Rationale:**

Staff recommends the KBE approve the proposed amendments to the District Facility Plans for the Whitley County and East Bernstadt Independent School Districts. The plans were developed in accordance with 702 KAR 1:001. The Division of Facilities Management staff certifies that all requested actions are justified, meet the intent to provide upgraded facilities, and are in accordance

with all applicable statutes and regulations.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

In Standard 4 of the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement, it is noted that the school's physical environment has an impact on student achievement. Research also indicates that better facilities enhance equity (equal opportunities for all students), attitudes and retention of staff, and parental involvement.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

A public forum and a local public hearing were held in the two school districts.

**East Bernstadt**

The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted 8-0 to approve the proposed amended plan. The Board voted 4-0 to approve the amendment. The local State Board public hearing is scheduled for January 14, 2008 and no opposition to the amendment is anticipated.

**Whitley County**

The Local Planning Committee (LPC) voted 15-0 to approve the proposed amended plan. The Board voted 3-0 to approve the amendment. The local State Board public hearing is scheduled for January 24, 2008 and no opposition to the amendment is anticipated.

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

February 2008